
U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

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TUNGSTEN IN DECEMBER 1996

Based upon net production of intermediate tungsten products, including metal powder and tungsten carbide powder produced from hydrogen reduced metal powder, the U.S. industrial tungsten activity for December 1996 decreased by about 16% compared with that of November 1996, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. U.S. industrial tungsten activity for the 12 months of 1996 was about 8% lower than for the same period of 1995. Reported consumption of tungsten in all end-use products through December 1996 decreased by about 5% compared with that through the same period of 1995.

November trade data are included in this issue. Trade data for December were unavailable at the time of publication and will appear in a subsequent issue.

The combined wolframite and scheelite prices from Metal Bulletin were:

Low \$43/mtu WO₃ (\$39.01/stu WO₃), January 1-31, 1997

High \$53/mtu WO₃ (\$48.10/stu WO₃), January 1-31, 1997

TABLE 1
U.S. SALIENT TUNGSTEN STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period	Concentrate			Reported scrap consumption	Intermediate products		
	Reported consumption	Imports for consumption	Stocks, end of period 2/		Net produc- tion 3/	Reported consumption 4/	Stocks, end of period 5/
1995:							
January-December	6,320	4,180	631	2,350	8,190	11,900	1,290
1996:							
January	479	310	486	261	718	993	1,220
February	475	162	438	186	933	1,000	1,360
March	504	155	559	223	845	957	1,440
April	580	148	694	236	787	973	1,510
May	415	403	654	200	303	1,070	1,550
June	551	365	721	199	473	947	1,560
July	506	383	633	273	866	935	1,780
August	415	183	695	250	525	1,110	1,640
September	422	521	601	134	524	836	1,550
October	342	181	803	207	633	835 r/	1,490
November	413	510	669	140	502	788 r/	1,450
December	318	NA	569	142	422	838	1,360
Total	5,420	3,320	XX	2,450	7,530	11,300	XX

r/ Revised. NA Not available. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Reported by consumers.

3/ Net production of tungsten metal powder, tungsten carbide powder, chemicals, and other products.

4/ Includes data on tungsten carbide powder from secondary sources.

5/ Reported by producers.

TABLE 2
U.S. PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION, AND STOCKS OF
AMMONIUM PARATUNGSTATE, BY MONTH 1/

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period	Production	Consumption	Stocks, end of period 2/
1995: p/			
January-December	2,580 3/	7,690	338
1996:			
January	565	598	370
February	W	630	366
March	556	782	357
April	W	742	319
May	W	619	299
June	W	531	391
July	677	639	W
August	592	673	576
September	551	572	570
October	539	866	507
November	563	597	522
December	402	475	513
Total	4,450	7,720	XX

p/ Preliminary. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Producers and consumers.

3/ Excludes seven months of withheld data.

TABLE 3
U.S. PRODUCTION AND STOCKS OF TUNGSTEN PRODUCTS 1/

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Product	Net production 2/			Stocks at end of period	
	1995	1996		1995	1996
		December	Year to date		December
Metal powder	2,910	155	3,720	818	815
Tungsten carbide powder (made from metal powder)	5,280	267	3,810	348	413
Cast and crystalline carbide powder; other	W	--	--	W	W
Chemicals	W	W	W	126	129
Total	8,190	422	7,530	1,290	1,360

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Gross production less quantity used to make other products in table.

TABLE 4
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION, BY END USE, AND CONSUMER STOCKS OF TUNGSTEN PRODUCTS IN DECEMBER 1996 1/

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

End use	Ferro-tungsten	Tungsten metal powder	Tungsten carbide powder	Scheelite (natural, synthetic)	Tungsten scrap 2/	Other tungsten materials 3/	Total	Total year to date
Steel:								
Stainless and heat-resisting	W	--	W	--	W	--	W	W
Alloy	2	--	--	--	--	--	2	24
Tool	W	--	--	--	--	--	W	157
Total	2	--	W	--	W	--	2	181
Superalloys	--	W	2	--	15	1	18	216
Alloys (excludes steels and superalloys):								
Cutting and wear-resistant materials	--	W	484	--	W	(4/)	484	6,470
Other alloys 5/	--	W	W	--	W	--	W	1
Mill products made from metal powder	--	W	--	--	--	--	W	360
Chemical and ceramic uses	--	W	W	--	--	W	W	W
Miscellaneous and unspecified	35	32	267	--	W	W	334	4,050
Total	37	32	753 6/	--	15	1	838	XX
Total consumption, year to date	323	636	9,930 6/	--	177	210	--	11,300
Stocks, December 31, 1996	26	43	457 6/	1	25	12	564	XX

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Does not include that used in making primary tungsten products.

3/ Includes tungsten chemicals.

4/ Less than 1/2 unit.

5/ Includes welding and hard-facing rods and materials and nonferrous alloys.

6/ Based on reported consumption plus information from secondary sources; includes estimates.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country of origin	Con- cen- trate	Ammonium tungstates	Ferro- tungsten	Lumps, grains, powders	Tungsten carbide	Other e/ 2/	Total	Total year to date
1995:								
Total	4,180	1,290	652	312	476	3,260	10,200	XX
1996:								
September	521	28	30	47	55	200	881	XX
October	181	128	23	31	41	146	550	XX
November:								
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3
Austria	--	--	--	--	--	3	3	23
Belgium	--	--	--	(3/)	--	--	(3/)	4
Bolivia	12	--	--	--	--	--	12	482
Canada	--	--	--	(3/)	2	--	2	66
China	--	58	46	--	2,010	258	2,370	5,830
Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
France	--	--	--	1	--	(3/)	1	23
Germany	--	(3/)	--	2	10	2	15	209
Hong Kong	--	15	--	--	3	--	18	213
Hungary	--	--	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	6
Ireland	--	--	--	--	(3/)	--	(3/)	10
Israel	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	10
Japan	--	--	--	2	(3/)	3	5	69
Kazakhstan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	126
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	6
Mexico	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	47
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	208
Peru	2	--	--	--	--	--	2	352
Portugal	10	--	--	--	--	--	10	472
Russia	486	--	30	--	--	20	536	1,790
Sweden	--	19	--	1	--	--	20	75
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	7
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	22
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	425
Uzbekistan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	30
Total	510	92	76	7	2,030	289	3,000	XX
Total, year to date	3,320	1,330	511	388	2,340	2,630	XX	10,500

e/ Tungsten content estimated in part. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes calcium, potassium, and sodium tungstates, mixtures and materials in chief value tungsten, tungsten oxide, tungstic acid, unwrought ingots and shot, other unwrought tungsten and materials, wrought tungsten, and other tungsten compounds.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Note: Imports of waste and scrap in November 1996 totaled 111 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 6
U.S. EXPORTS OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country of destination	Con- cen- trate	Ammonium tungstates	Metal powder e/	Tungsten carbide	Other e/ 2/	Total	Total year to date
1995:							
Total	5	238	484	1,670	369	2,760	XX
1996:							
September	--	19	31	90	15	155	XX
October	(3/)	41	7	117	32	197	XX
November:							
Argentina	--	--	--	--	--	--	3
Australia	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	13
Austria	--	--	--	--	--	--	30
Bahamas	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Belgium	--	--	--	(3/)	--	(3/)	65
Brazil	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	1	9
Canada	--	--	4	30	3	37	404
China	--	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	23
Denmark	--	--	--	(3/)	--	(3/)	4
France	--	--	--	5	(3/)	5	67
Germany	--	--	9	13	2	24	403
Guatemala	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Honduras	--	--	--	--	--	--	18
Hong Kong	--	--	(3/)	--	(3/)	(3/)	8
India	--	--	--	--	2	2	18
Ireland	(3/)	--	--	(3/)	--	(3/)	3
Israel	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	47
Italy	--	--	--	1	1	2	112
Japan	--	--	--	2	3	5	119
Korea, Republic of	--	--	1	1	(3/)	2	12
Luxembourg	--	--	--	1	--	1	17
Mexico	--	--	(3/)	1	2	3	35
Netherlands	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	1	25
New Zealand	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Portugal	--	--	--	1	--	1	3
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Singapore	--	--	--	1	(3/)	1	35
South Africa	--	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	25
Spain	--	--	--	--	1	1	10
Sweden	--	--	(3/)	10	(3/)	10	105
Switzerland	--	--	--	(3/)	--	(3/)	9
Taiwan	--	--	(3/)	3	1	4	44
United Kingdom	--	--	(3/)	1	1	2	124
Venezuela	--	--	--	--	--	--	3
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	--	2
Total	(3/)	--	16	70	17	103	XX
Total, year to date	17	126	229	1,170	268	XX	1,810

e/ Tungsten content estimated in part. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes calcium, potassium, and sodium tungstates, mixtures and materials in chief value tungsten, tungstic acid, unwrought ingots and shot, other unwrought tungsten and materials, wrought tungsten, and other tungsten compounds.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Note: Exports of waste and scrap in November 1996 totaled 56 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: Bureau of the Census.